

Fall 2009

International Panther, Fall 2009

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The International Panther

Culture and Intensive English Program

Fall 2009



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From the Director

Dear Reader,

It has been a busy session here at the Culture and Intensive English Program. This past semester, the program enrolled about 100 students for the first time since 1997. Included in this group were several students from our exchange partners City College DongGuan University of Technology in China, Kansai Gaidai University in Japan, and Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia - Cultural Mission. In addition to our growing student enrollment, CIEP staff have been busy working with *Oracle*, the world's largest enterprise software company, and various departments on campus to help customize the new student information system at the University of Northern Iowa. The new system will fully modernize and integrate CIEP as a unit of the University. We are also preparing for review by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) in Washington, D.C. This is an important step towards receiving international accreditation from the CEA. Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of the UNI students, colleagues and partners a wonderful new year. *Philip Ponder*



Current Students: Masahiro Takahashi and Zahra Aluraif

Ellen Johnston

Students in CIEP learn side-by-side with people from countries as different from their own as theirs is to America. Lasting friendships emerge from our classes, crossing nearly every international border.

Masahiro Takahashi is a junior English major from Osaka State University in Japan. He began studying in the CIEP in August 2009 and will finish in May 2010.

Masahiro thinks that the University of Northern Iowa is a good place to study. It is quite and spacious, and offers a good education. Masahiro is motivated to see many students studying in the library. To improve his English, Masahiro speaks with his American roommate. They share similar interests and are the same age. After finishing with school, Masahiro would like to find a job and is considering working with an airline, or in the hotel industry.

Masahiro's hobbies are break dancing and baseball, which he has played

for ten years. Public transportation is something Masahiro misses from Japan because he finds he cannot go far in Iowa without a car.

Before coming to Iowa, Zahra Aluraif worked as a psychologist after completing her bachelors' degree in Saudi Arabia. There Zahra spent four years working in a hospital, a disability office and a kindergarten classroom in her field. Her husband, Joe Aluraif, studied in the CIEP at UNI and told her about the University of Northern Iowa's strong reputation.

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In her spare time, Zahra reads psychology material and enjoys calligraphy.

In Cedar Falls, Zahra has a host family, but she still misses her family and her work in Saudi Arabia. Zahra will stay in the CIEP program for one year. After that time, she hopes to begin studying for her Masters and eventually her PhD.

At UNI, both students agree that they have had the opportunity to meet other international students (such as each other) through the CIEP's classes and its various other activities, as well as American students studying at UNI.

CIEP New Students**China**

Ximan Cui
Han Lin Ding
Wenyan Dong
Wei Jin
Yoo Jin Kim
Xiang Li
Qiang Liu
Tianchu Luo
Jun Ma
Zhiyang Sun
Xin Wang
Runguang Wang
Lei Yang
Jin An
Jiahao Cai
Chuyu Chen
Zigeng Ren

Ecuador

Rocio Lima Guaman

Italy

Francesco Gentilini

Japan

Natsuki Fujinaga
Makoto Ishibashi
Naomi Kosako
Takuya Soga
Masahiro Takahashi
Sachiyo Yamagata

Russia

Ekaterina Demiyanova

Aleksandr Durinov

Saudi Arabia

Noor Abualsaud
Heba Abualsaud
Abdullah Abufoor
Aqeel Alafreej
Abbas Alawami
Zahrah Alfaraj
Hanan Al-Harathi
Murtja Almahdi
Mustafa Almitib
Sultan AlMutairi
Maryam Alnasser
Abdullah Altorair
Mohammed M Alqahtani
Amal Alrebh
Salah Alsadeq
Salah AlShekhahmed
Mohammed Altamran

Slovakia

Rene Girasek

South Korea

Jun Ho Baek
Kang Chungwan
So Jin Yang

Taiwan

Hsueh-Ling Huang

Turkey

Egri Emre
Adem Yildirim
Mustafa Yilmaz

CIEP Graduates**Fall 1**

Mohammed Almubarak
Kumail Alqarous
Sang Hun Lee

Fall 2

Fadhel Alhajhouj
Ekaterina Demiyanova
Kayoko Takada

**International Friendship Program**

Madison Frei

We are pleased to announce that at the beginning of the semester, the Culture and Intensive English Program's (CIEP) "Family and Friends" host family program was integrated into the International Services Office (ISO) program and is now called the "International Friendship Program" (IFP).

This change has helped both organizations in many different ways to improve the IFP. It has also helped to streamline communication between CIEP and ISO. In addition, in the past it has sometimes been challenging for CIEP to find enough host families; by working with ISO, a larger pool of families and international students will be able to join in on this wonderful program and receive all the benefits it has to offer.

Another benefit of combining ISO and CIEP efforts are joint events and activities. For the first time, ISO and CIEP hosted a scrumptious Thanksgiving potluck at the Trinity Bible Church on Sunday, November 15th. International students and their families enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, and many other dishes prepared by families while mingling with different people and listening to a live performance of UNI's Men's Glee Club.

CIEP and the Community

Shannon Farley

Since its creation, the CIEP has partnered with many companies and community members in order to establish better connections and opportunities for its students.

Many companies have partnered with CIEP in the past. John Deere, in particular, has often arranged for several students over the years to come and study at the University of Northern Iowa through CIEP from the families of their employees. In the last two years alone, nearly 20 students have come to CIEP from John Deere related programs.

In addition to working with various companies, UNI and CIEP also work to help members of the local community. Many of our students are US citizens who take CIEP classes in order to improve their English proficiency.

The CIEP also hosts a lot of programs and events that work to unite CIEP students with those attending academic



classes at UNI. Other organizations and employees on campus, such as International Admissions and Kristi Marchesani work closely with CIEP to help integrate CIEP students into academic classes at UNI.

Published Authors

Cathy Howland

I started my Writing 4 class in the CIEP by writing on the blackboard "Writing is thinking." As we discussed it, the students came to the agreement that by writing, they are developing their thoughts and ideas, and they are learning—not just about English with all of its vocabulary and grammar rules, but about themselves and each other. Having recently participated in the Iowa Writing Project, one of the many things that stuck with me through this class was a belief statement by a former IWP facilitator, Cleo Martin, "First you address the writer and then the writing."

I have tried to embrace that thought with every paragraph that my students hand in. I have made it a point to ask them a question about the ideas they expressed, the

procedures they tried to teach and the memories and stories they wrote about. They began to feel that their writing had more purpose than just fulfilling a requirement. I watched them hurry to read the comments I wrote as soon as a paper was handed back to them. Often they would look up, smile shyly and say, "Thank you." As we moved into some peer sharing and peer editing, I was so pleased to see them follow my lead as students would write things like, "I really like your topic and I didn't know about that before, but I think you might need some more details. Thank you for writing and keep it up!" This encouragement helped the class to bond. They waited just as anxiously for their classmates' responses as they did for mine, and a peer editing session often ended with a lively discussion about how proud they were to have someone else read their work.

The one complaint that I received, though, was that the students would only get to read one or two of their classmates' works. I asked them if they would like to share some of their writing in a booklet at the end of the summer session. There was a resounding YES, and so as we approached the last full week of class, I asked the students to select one or more of their favorite writings to share in a book. Each student wrote a description of another classmate. Reading them, you can get a sense of the love and respect that grew in this class as a result of our thinking, writing and sharing. The day they were distributed, they pored over them, commenting on the writing, asking questions and congratulating each other on the quality of the works included. The way this class grew, in language skills, in willingness to take on a little more responsibility, in their thoughtfulness and respect for each other made it a joy to teach, and I will miss them all.



Fall 2009 CIEP Culture Activities

Shannon Farley



Field Trip to Schrage Farm

In mid-September, CIEP students and students from UNI's Business Department took a day trip to Schrage Farm. While there, they enjoyed roasting hot dogs and other snacks over a fire, hiking, driving antique tractors and canoeing down a river.

CP Bowling Night

In late September, CIEP students and their Conversation Partners enjoyed a fun night of bowling at Valley Park Lanes in Cedar Falls. In addition to the game, they also enjoyed pizza and other snacks.



Field Trip to Madison County

In mid-October, CIEP students travelled to Madison County, Iowa to enjoy the Covered Bridge Festival and to tour the famous bridges there. These landmarks were made famous in the book and subsequent film, "Bridges of Madison County."

Homecoming

Big congratulations to the CIEP students for winning the ***President's Choice Award*** for their participation at this year's UNI Homecoming Festival. Special thanks to Ellen, Marina, Geri, and Madison for guiding the students. The handsome plaque will be displayed in the main office and the monetary award used for activities programming.



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Halloween

Because it is rather unique to American culture, Halloween is usually a popular holiday for many CIEP students. This year, students went to the Rotary Reserve Haunted House. Later in the week, several CIEP and TAPP students helped set up and then attended the ISA (International Student Association) Halloween Party.



Field Trip to Iowa City

On November 14th, CIEP students took a trip to Iowa City. While there, they toured the National History Museum before going to the Pedestrian Mall, where they got the chance to ice skate before visiting the Museum of Art.

International Friendship Families Potluck

In November, all of the families and CIEP students participating in the International Friendship Program gathered to enjoy a Thanksgiving potluck. They received entertainment by members of UNI's Glee Club.



CP Cookie Designing

On December 4th, CIEP students and their Conversation Partners gathered together in the Center for Multicultural Education (CME) before finals to design and bake winter and holiday-themed sugar cookies.

International Education Week: November 16th-20th

Ellen Johnston

International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of the University of Northern Iowa's efforts to promote programs that prepare students for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States. The UNI community was asked to celebrate international education by proposing events during this week. Events included information tables in the Union, information sessions, lectures, discussion panels, international films, foreign language conversation tables, presentations, and flag displays throughout campus.

The Culture and Intensive English Program celebrated this event by participating in three activities Tuesday, November 17th. Students were invited to participate in a Class Exchange with Professor Heather Olsen's Leadership in Leisure Youth and Human Services Leadership class. Each term CIEP students are invited into an academic classroom. There students meet with American and international academic students. In previous terms, students have met with the Professor Kathy Oakland's Diverse Learners class. During the exchange, groups of students met in the Schindler Education Center. There they had the opportunity to discuss their study at UNI, as well as their homes, families and friends. CIEP students enjoy speaking with fluent English speakers, most of whom they find friendly and welcoming.

The CIEP also held an open house in Baker Hall. The event was sponsored in connection with open houses held by the International Programs, the International

Student Services, and the Study Abroad offices at UNI to promote these offices on campus working to invite international students to UNI, or send UNI students to international destinations to study or work. Display boards created for the 2009 Homecoming event in October were put on display showcasing countries such as Japan, Saudi Arabia and China. Cookies, coffee and lemonade were served as students had the opportunity to socialize with their peers, teachers, and staff from various international programs at UNI.



That evening, CIEP students were invited to a game night sponsored by the UNI Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)/Linguistics Club. Pizza and soda were served while students had the chance to play common American board and party games. The UNI TESOL/Linguistics Club aims to bring together students and faculty in the fields of linguistics and TESOL. Students involved in the TESOL/Linguistics Club desire to teach English and/or linguistics and the CIEP students learning English were given the chance to interact with and learn more about TESOL students and their program of study.



Contact the CIEP

Culture and Intensive English Program

University of Northern Iowa
72 Baker Hall
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0511
Phone: (319) 273-2182
Fax: (319) 273-3333

ciep@uni.edu | www.uni.edu/ciep